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EDUCATION WEEK

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Child-Care Bill, Parental Leave Die in Congress

Education's Disunity Surfaced in Struggle

By Deborah L. Gold

WASHINGTON—Derailed by competing interest groups and pre-election political maneuvering, legislation granting federal subsidies for child care and mandating unpaid leave for parents to care for children died this month in the 100th Congress.

NEWS ANALYSIS

A bill merging the "parental and medical leave act" and the "act for better child-care services" fell when Senate proponents were unable to garner the 60 votes needed to pass a procedural measure closing debate. The failure effectively thwarted consideration of the bill in either chamber this session.

The 50-to-46 Senate vote was split largely along party lines, although five Republicans supported the measure and eight Democrats opposed it.

The defeat quashed Democratic leaders' hopes of advancing a "pro-family" agenda in this Congress addressing the child-care needs of single and working parents.

Observers last week attributed the outcome to an interplay of partisan politics, procedural tactics, business opposition to the parental-leave bill, and unresolved questions about church-state separation and other sticking points in the child-care measure.

Both bills faced substantial resistance from different segments of the education

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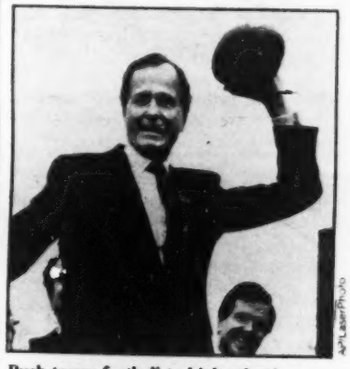
Bush: Capturing the 'Education' Moment?

From Limited Record to Full-Throttle Campaign



AP/Lauren Victor

Bush tosses football to high-school player during recent stop in York, Pa.

By Reagan Walker

Standing before an audience of high-school students in New Hampshire early this year, George Bush made a proclamation that would become a hallmark of his campaign for the White House: "I want to be the education President."

Election '88

"I want to lead a renaissance of quality in our schools," he said.

"I can say unequivocally that I will not support any further cuts in total federal funding for education," the Vice President continued. "We can spend more wisely, but we must not spend less."

The surprising remarks, coming early in the primaries when the candidate was deeply embroiled in other issues, created little stir. But they can be viewed in retrospect as the opening wedge in an all-out Republican effort to pry the education issue from Democrats' grasp.

Some who are close to the Vice President contend that the "education President" line "came from the heart." The evidence on the candidate's public record, however, offers little clear indication that that is the case.

But Republican operatives and politi-

Continued on Page 10

Lottery Misconceptions Making Long Odds on School Tax Votes

By Nancy Mathis

"Wasn't the lottery supposed to take care of this?"

The question, recently put to a Florida school official trying to drum up support for a local tax levy, is one that has educators in a number of states scrambling to fight the public's impression that they are sitting on a jackpot of lottery cash.

So worried are some school districts and state education agencies that they are waging their own public-relations campaigns to counter misconceptions about how much they receive from lottery proceeds and where the money goes.

Nine of the 28 states with legal lotteries designate public schools as the beneficiaries of lottery profits. But school officials contend that their cut has been far from the financial bonanza that was promised.

Voters, apparently convinced that school coffers are flush with ticket proceeds, are rejecting bond issues and operating levies for schools.

And that public misunderstanding continues to be fed, educators contend, by the day-in and day-out lottery promotions touting million-dollar jackpots.

Continued on Page 20

The New York Times

California officials dropped 'Schools Win, Too' slogan after complaints.

Schools' Radon Hard To Gauge, Analysis Finds

By Ellen Flax

WASHINGTON—It may be more difficult to accurately determine the level of potentially harmful radon gas in a school than in a home, a new and unpublicized report by the Environmental Protection Agency suggests.

Findings from the report, which includes testing data from five Fairfax County, Va., schools, indicate that the methods commonly used to test homes for radon may not yield accurate readings for schools.

The study found that, unlike homes, rooms on the same level of a school building may contain significantly different amounts of radon. It also found that concentrations of the gas were lower during classroom hours than on weekends, when many schools do their testing.

In addition, the study concluded that an inexpensive short-term test commonly used

Continued on Page 25

Students as Consumers: Advertisers Postering Schoolhouse 'Walls'

By Mark Walsh

Little by little, the images of national advertising, from toothpaste to cosmetics to candy bars, are establishing a beachhead on high-school and elementary-school campuses.

National advertisers are discovering there a "captive audience" of young but sophisticated consumers—pre-teenagers and teenagers who not only have large amounts of discretionary income to spend on themselves, but who also exert great influence on family purchases and are establishing buying patterns that may last well into adulthood.

The new vehicles being devised by advertisers and marketers to reach this huge market augment their traditional avenues of teen magazines and television by creating a presence in the schools themselves.

Most prominent among the new approaches is the wall poster, or "wall media," as advertisers say. Three companies are now involved in placing wall media in secondary and elementary schools.

The pioneer in the field is a Knoxville, Tenn., firm called Whittle Communications, which perfected the "wall magazine" at college campuses, doctors' offices, pet stores, and other locations where a segmented audience could be the target for a billboard featuring short, inviting stories and graphics—and, of course, advertisements. They began appearing in high schools in 1984 and in elementary schools last year.

Beginning this school year, two new companies have challenged Whittle with similar wall media for high schools.

But Whittle remains the leader in the field, with its "Connections" posters appearing in 5,000 high schools and "The Big Picture" in 4,000 elementary schools, said David Jarrard, a company spokesman.

New "Connections" posters are sent out every two weeks, with editorial material on top-

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Also in the news

A 'Failure' in Biology
A distinguished panel sees need for total revamping of high-school coursework.
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IN SUMMARY

Middle-Grade Dropouts
Efforts to reduce the dropout rate should focus more on students in the middle grades and should emphasize school based reforms that enhance achievement, a new report argues. **Page 7.**

Suicide-Prevention Critique
The proliferation of school suicide-prevention programs may be doing more harm than good to mentally troubled students, an expert on youth-suicide trends told a recent conference. **Page 9.**

Buckeye Schools' Money Woes
Small increases in state aid and voter resistance to property-tax levies have forced a record number of Ohio communities to seek emergency state aid to keep their schools open. **Page 12.**

States on the Edge
Although state governments are managing to hold their own financially, sudden shifts in the economy or federal policy could endanger many of them, a new study concludes. **Page 12.**

Arkansas Reform Agenda
Gov. Bill Clinton has outlined an ambitious program for his state's schools, including higher pay for teachers, experiments in "restructuring," and parental choice in school selection. **Page 15.**

Civil-Rights Bellwether
The Supreme Court heard arguments last week on a case that could lead to the overturning of a major 1976 decision barring private schools from denying admission to minorities. **Page 21.**

Hill Anti-Drug Marathon
Members of the Congress put off their scheduled adjournment to work on omnibus anti-drug legislation that, among other things, could deny student benefits to convicted drug offenders. **Page 23.**

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ACROSS THE NATION

NATIONAL

Caucus Calls for Federal Efforts To Combat Illiteracy in Sunbelt

The federal government should step in to coordinate local programs aimed at fostering literacy in the South, a new Congressional study argues.

The report, titled "Meeting the Economic Challenge of the 1990s: Workforce Literacy in the South," was prepared for the Congressional Sunbelt Caucus, a bipartisan group of members from 16 Southern states.

The report recommends that the government play an oversight role in efforts to improve the quality and accountability of "fragmented" state and private-sector literacy efforts, according to Rachel Perry, a spokesman for Representative David E. Price.

Representative Price, a Democrat from North Carolina, heads the caucus's Literacy Task Force.

The caucus contends that "the South is still the least educated region in the country" and is losing ground in the struggle to train workers for an increasingly technical job market, said Ms. Perry.

■ **A new national resource center will focus on the problems faced by "latchkey" children.**

The center, launched last week, is sponsored by the American Home Economics Association and the Whirlpool Foundation.

The resource center will be operated by "Project Home Safe," a $1.1-million program established last year by Whirlpool and A.H.E.A. to encourage research on children who return home from school while their parents are still at work.

The resource center includes a library and a computerized data base of research studies, model programs, legislation, and other information about school-age child care. The center has a toll-free telephone number: 1-800-252-SAFE.

STATES

Ohio Considers Mandatory Notice Of Students' Criminal Backgrounds

In the wake of the stabbing death of a teenage girl, youth-services officials in Ohio are considering requiring that schools be notified of a student's criminal background.

Last month, a 16-year-old high-school student from Northfield was charged with the murder of 13-year-old Lori Ewald. Officials at Nordonia High School said they were shocked to learn from news reports on the case that the student had a past record of kidnapping, rape, and assault. They had not, they said, been informed of his record through official channels.

As in many other states, Ohio's current policy allows youth counselors to decide whether schools should be made aware of a student's criminal record, according to Carol Rapp, a spokesman for the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

In this case, the boy had a good school record, Ms. Rapp said. As a result, the counselor chose not to notify school officials of his criminal record, for fear the boy would be "stigmatized," she explained.

After Nordonia officials strenuously protested that decision, the department decided to review the policy, she said. It could be altered within the next two months.

Corporal Punishment Allowed In Church Day-Care Centers

Noting that spanking is sometimes mandated by the Bible, a North Carolina administrative hearing officer has recommended that church day-care centers be allowed to set their own policies on corporal punishment.

John DeLuca, a hearing officer for the human-resources department, said in a ruling for the North Carolina Day Care Commission that a regulation prohibiting church day-care employees from spanking children constitutes state interference in religion. The regulation should be dropped, he said in a nonbinding recommendation.

The commission, which regulates the 2,500 day-care centers in the state, threatened in November 1985 to close church day-care centers if they spanked children.

Thirteen churches in 10 towns refused to stop the practice of corporal punishment, but continued to operate after the commission agreed to seek a legal opinion.

The commission is expected to act on the recommendation next month. Several of the churches have said they would appeal to the courts if the commission's ruling goes against them.

■ **The North Carolina Board of Education plans to review the state's in-school suspension program** in response to a report that says the program does little to reduce school-dropout rates.

The board ordered the review after a study of eight schools using in-school suspensions found a wide variation in the way the system is operated. Most of those running the programs had no formal training in counseling, according to the report.

The state spends $27 million a year on dropout prevention, about half of which supports suspension programs that allow student violators to remain in school but keep them apart from other students.

■ **Nearly three-quarters of Wisconsin residents believe that parents should have the right to choose a school or district for their children,** a new poll indicates.

But only one-fourth of those surveyed by the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute believe that right should be extended to the selection of specific teachers.

The repondents were more evenly divided on the question of using public monies to fund private education, with 45 percent in favor and 47 percent opposed.

John A. Gibson Jr./The Star Ledger

A SPECIAL HEAD START: Gov. Thomas H. Kean of New Jersey (center) and Mary Smith (left), an official with the New Community Corporation, help some healthy youngsters broke ground last week for the nation's first day-care facility for AIDS-infected children, which will be built by the N.C.C. in Newark.

DATABANK

Public-School Teachers and Student-Teacher Ratio by State: 1987

State	Instructional Staff: Teachers: Number	Teachers: Percent	Teachers: Pre-K	Teachers: K	Teachers: 1 - 12	Teachers: Ungraded	Instructional aides: Number	Instructional aides: Percent	Support Staff: Guidance: Number	Guidance: Percent	Other: Number	Other: Percent	Total staff	Student-teacher ratio	Total membership
Alabama	37,716	53.4	—	2,682	35,034	—	3,677	5.2	1,023	1.4	28,239	40.0	70,655	19.3	729,234
Alaska	6,113	83.9	29	280	5,712	112	277	3.8	112	1.5	783	10.7	7,285	17.3	105,878
Arizona	30,707	52.0	0	1,020	29,687	0	4,564	7.7	739	1.3	23,085	39.1	59,095	18.6	572,421
Arkansas	25,572	53.6	—	1,647	22,607	1,318	2,587	5.4	976	2.0	18,606	39.0	47,741	17.1	437,036
California	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colorado	31,168	52.6	58	1,177	29,933	—	4,062	6.8	990	1.7	23,053	38.9	59,263	18.0	560,238
Connecticut	35,050	87.2	184	1,043	28,047	5,776	—	—	2,065	5.1	3,109	7.7	40,214	13.3	465,485
Delaware	5,951	55.2	35	197	5,719	0	718	6.7	174	1.6	3,947	36.6	10,790	16.1	95,659
District of Columbia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Florida	95,857	51.9	175	5,579	73,452	16,651	17,564	9.5	4,020	2.2	67,167	36.4	184,606	17.4	1,884,774
Georgia	62,280	52.2	—	4,102	51,152	7,026	11,898	10.0	1,319	1.1	43,823	36.7	119,320	17.8	1,110,947
Hawaii	7,664	42.6	—	—	7,510	174	1,339	7.4	441	2.4	8,572	47.5	18,036	21.6	166,160
Idaho	10,258	63.3	9	415	9,736	107	923	5.7	244	1.5	4,780	29.5	16,205	20.7	212,444
Illinois	105,217	56.4	397	3,535	85,010	16,275	11,555	6.2	2,686	1.4	67,137	36.0	186,595	17.2	1,811,446
Indiana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Iowa	30,873	54.5	127	1,348	28,459	939	3,050	5.4	928	1.6	21,819	38.5	56,670	15.6	480,826
Kansas	27,317	57.4	53	931	23,525	2,808	2,523	5.3	996	2.1	16,733	35.2	47,569	15.4	421,112
Kentucky	35,239	50.9	—	1,116	34,123	—	5,182	7.5	915	1.3	27,856	40.3	69,192	18.2	642,696
Louisiana	42,920	48.3	147	2,711	33,269	6,793	7,477	8.4	796	0.9	37,601	42.3	88,794	18.5	793,093
Maine	14,204	58.2	—	—	14,204	—	2,683	11.0	441	1.8	7,062	29.0	24,410	14.9	211,817
Maryland	40,993	54.4	225	1,304	38,564	—	5,318	7.2	1,403	1.9	26,905	36.5	73,717	17.1	683,797
Massachusetts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Michigan	80,081	47.1	364	3,241	60,125	16,351	12,457	7.3	3,676	2.2	73,820	43.4	170,034	20.1	1,606,344
Minnesota	42,132	56.9	29	1,420	40,683	0	6,389	8.6	855	1.2	24,851	33.3	74,027	17.1	721,481
Mississippi[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	493,902
Missouri	49,632	51.3	247	1,883	46,614	878	3,540	3.7	1,902	2.0	41,662	43.1	96,736	16.2	802,060
Montana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	8,348	85.7	0	341	8,007	—	—	—	290	3.0	1,098	11.3	9,736	20.2	188,353
New Hampshire	10,363	55.6	—	196	10,167	—	1,501	8.1	481	2.6	6,290	33.8	18,635	15.8	163,319
New Jersey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Mexico	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York	170,236	52.0	1,156	6,426	138,245	24,409	23,825	7.3	5,028	1.5	128,339	39.2	327,428	15.2	2,594,070
North Carolina	59,771	52.3	53	—	51,497	8,221	17,002	14.9	1,982	1.7	35,488	31.1	114,243	18.2	1,085,976
North Dakota	7,632	56.4	56	265	7,201	0	899	6.6	184	1.2	4,838	35.7	13,533	15.6	119,004
Ohio	99,641	53.9	—	3,112	96,529	—	7,721	4.2	2,920	1.6	74,533	40.3	184,815	18.0	1,793,411
Oklahoma	34,515	54.1	46	1,129	29,766	3,574	3,750	5.9	1,026	1.6	24,531	38.4	63,822	18.9	584,212
Oregon	24,911	52.8	48	784	23,290	789	3,995	8.5	1,064	2.3	17,241	36.5	47,211	18.3	455,895
Pennsylvania	103,307	51.9	—	2,505	89,637	11,165	12,008	6.0	3,169	1.6	80,523	40.5	199,007	18.2	1,868,542
Rhode Island	8,934	61.3	—	248	7,487	1,199	901	6.2	328	2.3	4,408	30.2	14,569	15.0	134,061
South Carolina	35,701	57.1	335	1,016	34,350	—	5,652	9.0	1,170	1.9	20,004	32.0	62,557	17.2	614,921
South Dakota	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tennessee	42,082	50.5	0	0	42,082	0	7,401	8.9	1,031	1.2	32,742	39.3	83,256	19.8	823,783
Texas	187,159	49.6	2,783	10,171	170,083	4,122	27,945	7.4	5,334	1.4	156,802	41.6	377,240	17.3	3,236,787
Utah	17,124	53.1	0	742	14,425	1,957	2,581	7.9	412	1.3	12,167	37.7	32,284	24.7	423,388
Vermont	6,938	54.4	—	309	5,811	818	1,279	10.0	274	2.1	4,264	33.4	12,755	13.4	92,755
Virginia	59,928	52.4	82	2,936	56,426	484	8,405	7.3	2,080	1.8	44,096	38.5	114,439	18.3	979,417
Washington	38,344	58.1	—	—	34,682	3,662	5,120	7.5	1,240	1.8	23,701	34.6	68,405	20.2	775,755
West Virginia	22,702	54.8	18	868	18,056	3,761	2,868	7.0	558	1.3	15,267	36.9	41,415	15.2	344,236
Wisconsin	47,721	59.4	316	1,747	43,136	2,523	5,812	7.2	1,457	1.8	25,350	31.6	80,340	16.2	772,363
Wyoming	6,796	50.8	0	239	5,679	880	1,266	9.5	170	1.3	5,139	38.4	13,373	14.5	98,455
50 States and D.C.	2,273,649	53.0	—	—	2,016,301	—	336,890	7.9	70,598	1.6	1,604,596	37.4	4,287,322	17.6	39,937,867

Dashes indicate data is not available.

[1] Mississippi did not report staff data.

Note: Data reported are as of May 16,1988. National totals are imputed using the previous year's data.

SOURCE: National Center for Education Statistics.

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Advocates for Homeless Criticize Education Plan by Georgia Board

A proposal being considered by the Georgia Board of Education as a way of ensuring that homeless children receive an education "comparable" to that provided to other children could lead to discrimination against those it is intended to protect, advocates for the homeless have charged.

At a public hearing in Atlanta this month, several advocates harshly criticized the board's recommendation that local boards be allowed to develop their own policies regarding the enrollment of the homeless.

Under the proposal, the state superintendent of schools would be authorized to resolve disputes over such policies.

According to state officials who attended the hearing, the plan's critics argued that granting such authority to local boards would result in inconsistent policies across the state. The critics contended that it would be more appropriate for the state board to issue a single, statewide mandate.

Several opponents said that homeless students often suffer discrimination as a result of policies implemented with helpful intentions that effectively label such children as different.

The education department plans to hold several more hearings on the proposal before it is submitted to the state board of education for approval.

—P.W.

In New Mexico, Unified Front

New Mexico education groups that have not always seen eye to eye are uniting to lobby the legislature on education issues.

The Alliance for Education says that public schools in the state are "in crisis," and that the legislature must increase school funding. The alliance is made up of organizations representing school administrators, classroom teachers and teachers' unions, and elementary and secondary principals.

Its aim is to present "a unified front" before the legislature, the governor, and the state board of education, said its chairman, Mike Kakuska, principal of Los Lunas High School.

—M.W.